

The United Nations in 2015 worked to entrench peace, stability and recovery in post-conflict countries in Europe and the Mediterranean, including through efforts to re-establish their institutions and social and economic infrastructure. A number of issues, however, remained unresolved, first and foremost the continuing conflict in Ukraine.

Bosnia and Herzegovina in February adopted a written commitment with the European Union (EU), opening the way for a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU that entered into force on 1 June. A border treaty was signed with Montenegro, and in November a long-awaited joint session of the Governments of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Political situation and other developments

Briefing the Council on 12 May [S/PV.7440], the

Sector Reform Strategy for 2014–2018, replacing the previous strategy, which had expired in 2013. Discussions within the EU-led Structured Dialogue on Justice continued, concentrating on new draft legislation on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The implementation of legislation adopted by the Federation in July 2014 to create a special prosecutors' department for fighting corruption and organized crime continued to be delayed owing to a lack of budgetary resources. As a result, legal uncertainty remained in regard to the jurisdiction over the prosecution of corruption and organized crime, negatively affecting prosecutions.

The Supervisory Board for the Implementation of the War Crimes Prosecution Strategy continued to meet regularly, with the backlog of cases in the prosecutor's offices being systematically reduced. The Board concluded that the goal of reducing war crimes cases in the prosecutors' offices by 15 per cent by 30 June 2015 had been met. The deadline set for the strategic goal of processing all serious war crimes cases within seven years, however, expired in December, with that goal not being achieved.

Economic reform

The year was generally positive in terms of economic recovery, with industrial production increasing by 2.6 per cent, exports increasing by 3.5 per cent and imports decreasing by 2.1 per cent. A positive trend continued in collection of indirect tax revenue. Public debt, however, increased by 3.6 per cent over 2014 and by 26.2 per cent compared to 2010; the administrative unemployment rate was about 44 per cent at mid-year, and about 60 per cent of youth was unemployed. Also discouraging were foreign direct investment levels, which in the first quarter of 2015 saw a decrease of 77.6 per cent compared with 2014. In July, the Parlia-

E provided advice to the Kosovo police on the operational planning for several public order events and supported steps in implementing -facilitated dialogue agreements. In the framework of the customs agreement, full implementation of the licensing regime for controlled goods, including medicine, was introduced. Belgrade and Pristina suggested and agreed to the opening of two additional interim crossing points by 2016.

e Reports of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on activities in 2015 were annexed to the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council on [S/2015/74, S/2015/303, S/2015/579, S/2015/833].

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e United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (), established in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 357] to facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo's political future, comprised five components: interim administration, institution-building, economic reconstruction, humanitarian affairs, and police and justice. Following Kosovo's declaration of independence in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 437], and the deployment of in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 412], the profile and size of were reconfigured. e Mission's strategic goal remained the promotion of security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region through engagement with all communities in Kosovo, with the leadership in Belgrade and Pristina, and with regional and inter-

economic and cultural rights, the restriction of the

by the armed forces of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan on 10 February [A/69/772-S/2015/105] rejected allegations made by Armenia in its letter dated 8 January.

On 5 February [A/69/767-S/2015/99], Armenia reported an alleged increase in violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of Azerbaijan on the line of con-

stasiades marked the resumption of the talks after a seven-month stalemate. At their second meeting on 28 May, the leaders agreed to focus on the issue of missing persons and on five concrete steps: working to open more crossing points, interconnecting the electricity grids, making mobile telephone networks interoperable, working on the prevention of radio frequency interferences and establishing a committee on gender equality. As a part of confidence-building measures, the leaders agreed to open two new crossing points. On 1 September, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus hosted a meeting between the two Cypriot leaders, who focused mainly on the issues of property and governance.

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established to prevent the recurrence of fighting between the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities and to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions, continued to assist in the restoration of normal conditions and in humanitarian functions. The Security Council extended UNFICYP's mandate until 31 January 2016. The Secretary-General submitted two reports covering UNFICYP activities for the periods from 16 December 2014 to 20 June 2015 [S/2015/517] and 21 June to 18 December [S/2016/11].

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The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established in 1964 [YUN 1964, p. 165], con-

teams of archaeologists of the Committee on Missing Persons had exhumed the remains of 1,059 missing persons on both sides of the island. The remains of 625 individuals had been identified and returned to

tion seeking to establish an international tribunal to hold accountable those responsible for the downing of flight Malaysia Airlines MH-17 [YUN 2014, p. 507]. On 29 July a draft resolution presented by Malaysia and co-sponsored by a number of Council and non-Council members was not adopted owing to the veto of the Russian Federation.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights kept the Security Council informed on human rights violations on the territory of Ukraine, including in the areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions not under Government control. He also spoke about the human rights situation in Crimea. Throughout the year, the Trilateral Contact Group—Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the United States—sought a diplomatic resolution of the conflict.

Security Council consideration. Briefing the Security Council on 21 January [S/PV.7365], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, said that following weeks of relative calm, eastern Ukraine had seen the worst hostilities since the ceasefire and the Minsk protocol were agreed to on 5 September 2014 [YUN 2014, p. 510]. Signs of progress, such as the exchange of hundreds of prisoners, had been overshadowed by renewed fighting and a deepening political stalemate. Violence had spread throughout the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, including in heavily populated civilian areas, such as the city of Donetsk. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had stated that there were more than 9,000 regular Russian troops in Ukraine, an accusation that Moscow denied.

The upsurge in fighting had been accompanied by mutual recriminations between Kyiv and Moscow, and a continued impasse on the diplomatic and political front. A country that until the previous year had no displaced people reportedly had at least 850,000 citizens displaced within its borders and over 600,000 in neighbouring States.

Communications (22–24 January). On 22 January [S/2015/49], Ukraine transmitted a statement of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the alleged terrorist act in Donetsk committed on that same day. On 24 January [S/2015/55], Ukraine transmitted a statement of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the alleged terrorist attack committed on that same day in Mariupol, Donetsk region.

Security Council consideration. Briefing the Security Council on 23 January [S/2015/55], the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Jeffrey Feltman, said that following weeks of relative calm, eastern Ukraine had seen the worst hostilities since the ceasefire and the Minsk protocol were agreed to on 5 September 2014 [YUN 2014, p. 510]. Signs of progress, such as the exchange of hundreds of prisoners, had been overshadowed by renewed fighting and a deepening political stalemate. Violence had spread throughout the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, including in heavily populated civilian areas, such as the city of Donetsk. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had stated that there were more than 9,000 regular Russian troops in Ukraine, an accusation that Moscow denied.

e stark escalation of hostilities had led to increased violations of international human rights and

Downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17

Security Council consideration. On 10 July [S/2015/528], Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine requested the Security Council to establish an ad hoc international criminal tribunal under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to prosecute persons responsible for crimes connected with the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over Ukrainian territory on 17 July 2014 [YUN 2014, p. 507].

On 20 July [S/2015/551]

Ukraine), a regional cooperation organization established by the 2006 Kyiv Declaration [YUN 2006, p. 486]